

KARO-ECHO Newsletter 03-07-2018

The KARO ECHO Net meets each Thursday evening immediately after the West Contra costa RACES Net but never before 1900 local time on 146.415 mHz Simplex.

The West Costa County ACS/RACES Net meets each Thursday on 145.110 mHz repeater (TX down 600 Hz with PL 82.5) at 1845 local time.

KARO-ECHO meets at 7:30 PM on the second Monday of each month at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington, CA 94707 in the upper East Room. Ample parking is available. The next meeting is this **Monday, March, 12.**

Please visit the KARO-ECHO WIKI at HYPERLINK "<https://karo-echo.net/>" <https://karo-echo.net/> for useful documents and announcements. Thanks to Wayne, KK6ZPL, for creating the Wiki.

Proposed AGENDA: KARO-ECHO Meeting March 12, 2018

The meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 PM followed by the approval of the Minutes. Additions to the agenda will be entertained after the proposed agenda is read. Email proposed items to Hal, KK6NDF. Then old business, followed by new business, and followed by the monthly program, a drill, practice, and/or education.

Proposed Agenda Items:

Meeting comes to order at 7:30 PM

Additions/corrections to the Feb. 7, 2018 minutes are solicited. Minutes are approved.

Can K/EC Emergency Management Service (EMS) give us the result of the second mailing and subsequent October 2016 mass meeting committee sign-up sheets?

Can EMS provide access to Tassajara Park antenna and the install of an outdoor lockbox with a combination lock for the antenna access? We also have to test the antenna.

Can EMS, improve the usability of the CERT Area maps at HYPERLINK "<http://www.el-cerrito.org/579/Area-Coordination>" <http://www.el-cerrito.org/579/Area-Coordination> :

Have the KARO-ECHO executive committee appoint a Thursday evening **Net Manager** (with the approval of the Karo-Echo Emergency Coordinator) to manage the NCS assignments and net procedures. Lacking such, the Emergency Coordinator shall assume this responsibility. The EC should be emailed the total check-in count, list of station check-ins, and the amount of formal written traffic that was passed during the net.

Open dates for NCS should be announced by the **Net Manager** or lacking one, by the EC or AEC at each net. Example: “We need NCS volunteers for NCS for the following dates, Feb 2, May 7, April 16. Etc. Are there any takers please?”

Appoint a **Newsletter Manager to maintain a monthly email roster** and send a monthly newsletter to all members and check-ins posting the KARO-ECHO minutes and all relevant KARO-ECHO bulletins/announcements.

A Review of the radio, antenna, and emergency power status of KARO-ECHO equipment installed at public agencies and elsewhere led by Hal, KK6NDF. We need to **establish site coordinators** to maintain these stations as Gerry and Marian have been doing this work by themselves for many years. Hal will make an Excel maintenance log to be maintained at all stations..

A discussion how these locations will serve our strategic interests in the event of normal communications disruption. What are the expectations of the EOC/EMS, CERT, and other clients?

PR: How to reconnect with existing hams in EC/K who have left KARO-ECHO and/or have been turned off by KARO-ECHO dropping the ball in the past. A new mailer/brochure may be in order announcing turning over our new leaf? A proposal for a well-designed outreach mailer to be sent to every ham in EC/K to solicit their input and participation.

Simulated Emergency Test (SET) Planning Committee

The planning of a SET for April 2018 including all 17 KEN/EC CERT Areas and the EOC to test our radios, message handling abilities, and net operation.

Education: A review of the first 7 chapters of the KARO-ECHO Field Operations Handbook

Minutes

The February 9, 2018 meeting minutes will be available at the KARO-ECHO March 12, 2018 Meeting before the meeting begins.

Recent Events, Bulletins, and Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tuesday March 13, 7:00 PM at 997 Cedar (9th and Cedar at the BFD Training Center):

Training and Resource Sharing for Berkeley CERT Teams Using GMRS Radio.

Teams and individuals have become involved in the Berkeley CERT GMRS Network (BeCERTAINN). A number of common questions have come up with regard to network use / protocols, radio operations / equipment, and licensing. Topics include:

- How the network can be utilized
- Use of radio for live Net check in
- Good operating procedures
- Equipment show and tell
- Testimonials from new users

The overall goal is to enable new or interested users to become oriented with Network operations.

Announcement

We need more hams to contact their CERT Area Coordinators and volunteer as ham communicators who can relay messages from their CERT Area to the Kensington/El Cerrito Emergency Operating Center (EOC) Hams are also needed to relay messages between the CERT Areas (Inter-Area Comms) as well as to handle traffic to other disaster agencies.

Announcement:

Two portable 50 watt 2 m/70 cm radio stations, batteries, folding tripod mast stand, and high gain antennas is currently being equipped.

Announcement:

A hands-on on the air radio test is being planned for April, to send hams to all 17 CERT Area strategic staging areas and the EOC to test comms to and from the EOC and between the CERT Areas to facilitate mutual aid. There will be at least one message sent and received between each area. Mobile stations will also be utilized. So get your mobile antennas and gear ready now.

Volunteers to help our community needed!

We need a **Net Manager** for the Thursday Night KARO-ECHO Net. The Net Manager shall be appointed by the Board of Directors (see 11. above) and shall:

Manage the weekly Net according to guidelines established by the Board

Arrange for Net Control Stations (NCS)

Arrange a schedule of Net Control Stations (NCS) by soliciting volunteers to fill slots at least one week in advance.

Transmit relevant bulletins/announcements on the weekly net.

Receive and archive net session reports regarding the callsigns of check-ins, the total number of check-ins, total time of net, and number of written messages passed. A copy of the weekly archive should be sent to the Emergency Coordinator (EC).

Report to the membership at regular meetings

Arrange for announcements during the Net of the date, time, and location of the next

Regular or Special or Plenary meeting

Follow the recommended standard ARRL Net Management procedures

The Net Manager may delegate Net responsibility to assistant net managers as desired..

We need a PR/Outreach Coordinator Newsletter Editor

Duties:

Produce and distribute aa monthly Newsletter before the monthly KARO-ECHO regular monthly meeting containing the meeting announcement (Time, date, and place), the proposed agenda, the minutes of the last meeting, upcoming drills, activities, and related disaster services information.

Increase KARO-ECHO membership by recruiting new and old hams to participate in both the net and the meetings.

Arrange for mail mailings to all EC/K licensed Radio Operators informing them of our current and recent activities and objectives while requesting their participation.

We also need volunteers for our **technical maintenance committee** (maintain equipment installations, fix, and install new equipment),

Amateur Radio Technician License Exam and Class Offering

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club will offer a class to prepare applicants for the Technician Class Amateur Radio License, starting April 6, 2018 and ending June 8. The class will meet each Friday from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM at El Sobrante United Methodist Church, on Argyle Rd. off Appian Way in El Sobrante. Textbook is The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Revised 3rd Edition. Books will be available for purchase.

FCC examinations and license applications will be administered at the final class session by the EBARC Volunteer Examiners for a fee of \$15.

Contact Ken Fowler at 510-222-0830 or email: ko6no@comcast.net to register by April 5, 2018.

Tell your friends

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email Don, NI6A [HYPERLINK "mailto:sahajyoga@yahoo.com" sahajyoga@yahoo.com](mailto:sahajyoga@yahoo.com)

Please find three file attachments.

1) The KARO-ECHO **Comm Plan** (rev)

2) The KARO-ECHO **Net Protocol and Net Log** for Net Control Stations (rev)

3) **This Newsletter** in MS Word format